

P.O. Box 74
Franklin, KY 42135
November 20, 2000

9587 '00 DEC -6 AM 1:00

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

We urge you to grant the petition by Farm Sanctuary to prohibit the slaughter of downed farm animals--animals too sick or injured to stand. The docket number is 98P-0151/CP1.

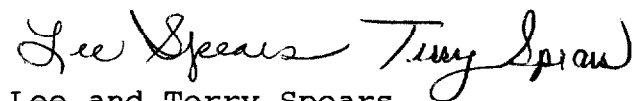
There is almost no humane way to move downed animals. Usually, they are dragged with chains or pushed with tractors, resulting in injuries including broken bones and torn ligaments. Industry experts have estimated that better care and handling would reduce the number of downed animals by 90%. Removing the market for these animals would provide an incentive for the industry to prevent animals from being downed in the first place.

Eating meat from downed animals poses a hazard to human health. There is increased risk from bacterial contamination and evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a type of BSE ("Mad Cow Disease"), which has been linked to the fatal human illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Only a very small percentage of animals slaughtered are downed, so prohibiting them from being marketed will not cause an undue economic hardship to anyone.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

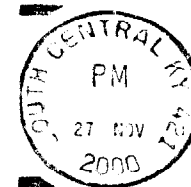
Sincerely,


Lee and Terry Spears

98P-0151

C3158

Spears
P.O. Box 74
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HFA-305

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